
Corel[®] Paradox[®] 8

February Newsletter

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Corel[®] Paradox[®] 8 ODBC Driver

This newsletter provides more information about the ODBC drivers shipped with both Corel[®] Paradox[®] 8 and Corel[®] WordPerfect[®] Suite 8 Professional. Corel WordPerfect Suite 8 Professional includes ODBC drivers which are intended for use only with Corel[®] Quattro[®] Pro 8. Corel Paradox 8 contains the ODBC driver for accessing Corel Paradox 8 data.

What is an ODBC Driver?

ODBC is an acronym for Open Database Connectivity. All database engines have a proprietary file format. Only the vendor for each database can provide functions in software libraries to manipulate the data. In order to allow other applications to access a database, a vendor can either allow other users access to the proprietary library or provide a special library which translates the functions to a language known by all programmers. The ODBC driver provides this library.

INTERSOLV ODBC Drivers

The “INTERSOLV ParadoxFile (*.db)” driver (version 3.00.0005) is the driver provided by INTERSOLV for accessing Corel[®] Paradox[®] 8 data. This is the driver which ships with the full version of Corel Paradox 8 as well as Corel[®] WordPerfect[®] Suite 8 Professional. **This driver is not installed in a typical or minimum installation.** You must perform a custom install in order to install this driver.

Corel WordPerfect Suite 8 Professional also includes the “INTERSOLV 3.00 32-BIT” drivers (version 3.00.0000) which are provided by INTERSOLV for use with Corel[®] Quattro[®] Pro 8 only. This includes the “INTERSOLV 3.00 32-BIT

ParadoxFile (*.db)” driver. If you attempt to use these drivers outside of Corel Quattro Pro 8, you will receive a message stating that you do not have a license for this driver. These drivers are also not installed in a typical or minimum installation. You must perform a custom installation.

Installing the Corel[®] Paradox[®] 8 ODBC Driver

In the Corel Paradox 8 Setup program, enable the Custom Install option, then on the Custom Installation page, ensure that Paradox ODBC Drivers is enabled. (If you have already installed Corel Paradox 8, you may wish to disable all other options on this page.) Continue with the Corel Paradox 8 setup.

In the Corel WordPerfect Suite 8 Professional Setup program, enable the Custom Install option. On the Custom Installation page, enable the Corel Paradox 8 option and then choose Components. On the Corel Paradox 8 page, ensure that the Paradox ODBC Drivers option is enabled. Click OK to close the Corel Paradox 8 page. Complete the remainder of the installation process.

Configuring the Corel[®] Paradox[®] 8 ODBC Driver

In the Control Panel on your Windows desktop, launch the ODBC Administrator. On the User DSN page, click Add. Choose the INTERSOLV ParadoxFile (*.db) driver from the list and click Finish.

Use the General tab on the ODBC Paradox Driver Setup dialogue box to describe your data source:

- Provide the name for your DSN. The Data Source Name is a string that identifies this Corel Paradox 8 data source configuration

in the system information. Examples include "Accounting" or "Paradox5-Serv1."

- Provide a description of your data. This box allows you to enter an optional long description of a DSN. For example, "My Accounting Database" or "Paradox Files on Server number 1."
- In the Database Directory box you must specify the path where your data resides. Note that this path must exist. If a directory is not specified, the current working directory is used. You can also specify aliases that are defined in your IDAPI configuration file, if you have one. To do this, enclose the alias name in colons. For example, to use the alias MYDATA, specify ":MYDATA:"

Use the Advanced page on the ODBC Paradox Driver Setup dialog box to specify optional settings.

- **Network Directory:** This directory specifies where the network lock file (Pdouxrs.net) resides. This path must correspond to the path which you have specified in the BDE Administrator, normally C:\ on a standalone system. If the Corel Paradox 8 database you are using is shared on a network, then every user who accesses it must set this value to point to the same PARADOX.NET file. If this value is not set here, it is determined by the NetDir setting in the Paradox section of the IDAPI configuration file. If you are not sure of how to set this value, contact your network administrator.
- **Create Type:** The Corel Paradox 8 table version desired for any Create Table statements that you execute. You can specify 3, 4, 5, 7 or leave the box blank and use the default setting. The default setting is determined by the Level setting in the Paradox section of the IDAPI configuration file. The numeric values map to the major revision

numbers of the Corel Paradox family of products.

Note: If you choose Create Type 7, the Corel Paradox driver supports table names up to 128 characters long. For all other Create Type settings, the driver supports table names up to 8 characters long.

Typically, default values can be used for the remaining options.

- **File Open Cache:** A numeric value to specify the maximum number of unused file opens to cache. For example, the value 4 specifies that when a user opens and closes four tables, the tables are not actually closed. The driver keeps them open so that if another query uses one of these tables, the driver does not have to perform another open, which is expensive. The advantage of file open caching is increased performance. The disadvantage is that a user who specifies file locking on open may get a locking conflict even though no one appears to have the file open. The default is 0, which means no file open caching.
- **Create Type:** The Corel Paradox 8 table version desired for any Create Table statements that you execute. You can specify 3, 4, 5, 7 or leave the box blank and use the default setting. The default setting is determined by the Level setting in the Paradox section of the IDAPI configuration file. The numeric values map to the major revision numbers of the Corel Paradox family of products.
Note: If you choose Create Type 7, the Corel Paradox driver supports table names up to 128 characters long. For all other Create Type settings, the driver supports table names up to 8 characters long.
- **International Sort:** Determines the order in which records are retrieved when you issue a Select statement. If the International Sort check box is selected, the driver uses the international sort order as defined by your

operating system. The sort is not case-sensitive. The sorting of accented characters is also affected. The default is not enabled (the driver uses the ASCII sort order, where uppercase letters precede lowercase letters).

- **Use Long Qualifiers:** Specifies whether the driver uses long path names as table qualifiers. If the Use Long Qualifiers check box is enabled, path names can be up to 255 characters long. The default is not enabled. (path names can be up to 128 characters).
- **Application Using Threads:** A setting that ensures that the driver works with multi-threaded applications. You can clear this check box when using the driver with single-threaded applications. Turning off this setting avoids additional processing required for ODBC thread safety standards.
- **Translate:** Displays the Select Translator dialog box, which lists the translators specified in the ODBC Translators section of the system information. INTERSOLV provides a translator named INTERSOLV OEM ANSI that translates your data from the IBM PC character set to the ANSI character set.

Click OK or Cancel. If you click OK, the values you have specified become the defaults when you connect to the data source. You can change these defaults by using this procedure to reconfigure your data source. You can override these defaults by connecting to the data source using a connection string with alternate values. Choose OK to exit the ODBC Administrator.

You should now be able to use your data source in any ODBC compliant application, including Corel WordPerfect 8, Corel Quattro Pro 8, Microsoft® Access 97 and Microsoft® Word 97.

Accessing Corel Paradox 8 from another application

All ODBC-compliant third party applications will be able to access only the data which you have registered in the previous step. Queries, reports

and forms which you have created in Corel Paradox are proprietary entities and can only be opened with Corel Paradox. Since you have access to the data, you can use your third party application to build queries, reports and forms in that application.